



State of Vermont

Department of Vermont Health Access

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On June 29, 2016, the Department of Vermont Health Access sent out a letter to Vermont Medicaid providers stating that as of July 5, 2016 initial prescription for all short acting opiates will be limited to a 10-day supply under Medicaid. This letter was based on an internal miscommunication and is hereby retracted. Please be advised that a banner on this subject has already been issued with provider remittance advise and should be disregarded.

The critical work of reducing the number of opioids prescribed in Vermont is complex and will require many different modalities and the input from stakeholders across the state. DVHA is currently working with the Department of Health on a number of initiatives, including those related to Act 173, An act relating to combating opioid abuse in Vermont. Under the Act, the Commissioner of Health is directed to adopt rules concerning the use of opioids to treat acute pain. Commissioner of Health, Dr. Chen, has been meeting with health care providers to understand their experience and hear recommendations. On July 21, 2016, Dr. Chen will convene the newly created Controlled Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council to receive input and advice from the broad spectrum of the Council's membership. Following that meeting, a proposed rule will be posted on the Department of Health's website and there will be a noticed public hearing and an opportunity to comment in person, via email, letter, or phone. Rules will be adopted thereafter with a likely effective date early in 2017. At that time, claims will be monitored to ensure adherence to the new regulation.

DVHA looks forward to working with its sister Department and the provider community to solve this multifaceted problem.

Steven Costantino
Commissioner, Vermont Health Access